



**Weston County  
USDA Service Center**

**Weston County FSA  
1225 Washington Blvd  
Newcastle, WY 82701  
(307) 746-2701**

**Office Hours:  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 am – 4:30 pm  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)**

**County Committee  
Joe Simmons, Chairman  
Monte Hamilton, V. Chair  
Doug Materi, Member**

**Staff  
Peggy Livingston,  
Acting CED  
Jim Neill, COT**

# Weston County News

## July 2008



### ***Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program***

Signup for the 2008 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) has finally been announced!!

The signup dates are **June 25, 2008-September 30, 2008.**

The 2008 DCP shall be administered exactly like the 2007 DCP, **except** that a producer on a farm may **not** receive direct or counter-cyclical payments if the sum of the base acres on the farm is 10 acres or less with exceptions. This provision and others are discussed as follows:

- Generally, farms that have 10 base acres or less shall **not** receive direct or counter-cyclical payments **unless** that farm is wholly owned by socially disadvantaged or limited resource farmers or ranchers, as follows:
  - a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is a farmer or rancher who is a member of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities
  - a limited resource farmer or rancher is a farmer or rancher who meets **both** of the following:
    - directly or indirectly has gross farm sales not more than \$100,000 in both of the previous 2 years (the limit is increased annually beginning in 2004 to adjust for inflation using the Prices Paid by Farmer Index compiled by NASS)
    - has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of 4, or less than 50 percent of county median household income in **both** of the previous 2 years (to be determined annually using Commerce Department Data).

*Note: Limited Resource Producer status can be determined in an automated system using the USDA Limited Resource Farmer and Rancher Online Self Determination Tool <http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/tool.asp>. The automated system calculates and displays the adjusted gross farm sales per year and the higher of the national poverty level or county median household income.*

Advance payments are available starting July 2008-September 2008 or the entire payment may be received in October 2008. Please stop by our office to complete your 2008 signup.

### ***!!! Crop Insurance !!!***

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, (The Farm Bill) was enacted June 18, 2008. The 2008 Act created several new disaster programs under the title, "Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance". To be eligible for these programs, producers **must** purchase at least CAT level of crop insurance for **all** insurable crops and/or NAP coverage for non-insurable crops. Although the application deadlines have passed for both NAP and CAT coverage, a waiver has been authorized in the 2008 Act to allow producers to pay, within 90 calendar days of enactment (**September 16, 2008**), a buy-in fee to be eligible for Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance for crops for which they did **not** purchase crop insurance or NAP coverage for 2008.



Therefore, please stop by the office before **September 16, 2008** to purchase either NAP or CAT coverage, if needed, in order to be eligible for Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance.

### ***Acreage Reporting Deadline Nears***

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive program benefits.



Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported. Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted.

Because of the late introduction of the Farm Bill, **the crop reporting deadline has been extended to August 15, 2008.** After August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 a late fee charge will be required in order to process your crop report.

### ***2008 Election***



It's that time of year again to start thinking about the annual County Committee election process. This year we are holding our election in the Local Administrative Area three (LAA-3), which covers the south half of Weston County south of Township 45. Information about the election process, fact sheets, and nomination forms are available online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under the "News and Events" tab. FSA 669A's, the nomination form, is available on this website, attached to this newsletter, or at the county office. This office will be accepting nominations until August 1, 2008. To get diversity we are encouraging beginning farmers and ranchers to get involved in the election process. So, if you know anyone would be interested in serving this area of the county on the FSA County Committee either visit this website, or stop by our office and complete a FSA-669A prior to the August 1 deadline.

### ***Farm Loan Program Information***

Farm Service Agency (FSA) has loan programs that could help farmers and ranchers experiencing financial problems in today's economy of tight profit margins. Several types of loan programs are offered through FSA.



Under the Guaranteed Loan program, FSA guarantees farm ownership, term operating loans, and lines of credit used for annual operating through conventional agricultural lenders for guarantees up to 95%. The guarantee generally allows the conventional lender to provide the applicant with longer terms and lower rates of interest. All applicants must meet certain qualifying criteria to be eligible for guarantees. Farmers and ranchers interested in Guaranteed Loans should apply directly with a conventional lender, who arranges for the guarantee.

For those unable to qualify for a Guaranteed Loan, FSA offers Direct Loans, which are made and serviced by FSA officials. Funding is limited for Direct Loans, and applicants must sometimes wait until funds are available. To qualify for a Direct Farm Ownership or Operating Loan, the applicant must meet eligibility criteria and have sufficient repayment ability and loan collateral. FSA will work with you to analyze your situation, provide technical assistance, and tailor loans to meet your needs.

Youth between the ages of 10 and 21 may also apply for a direct loan up to \$5,000 associated with their 4-H, FFA, or other youth organization activities.

Farm Service Agency is an Equal Credit Opportunity Lender. Beginning farmers and members of traditionally underserved gender and ethnic groups are encouraged to apply for guaranteed and/or direct loan assistance from FSA. Each year, farm ownership and operating loan funds are temporarily set-aside to meet the needs of beginning farmers and traditionally underserved groups.

Anyone having questions please call your local Farm Service Agency in Newcastle, WY at 307-746-2701.

### ***Farm Reconstitutions***

If you have sold land or purchased additional farm land, the FSA needs to conduct a Farm Reconstitution in order to better serve you.

Producers **must** request reconstitutions (regardless of base size) by **August 1, 2008**, for farms participating in DCP. All reconstitutions **must** be initiated by the County Office by close of business **August 14, 2008**. Starting **August 15, 2008**, the reconstitution software will **not** allow a farm combination or division for farms with crop acreage bases or protecting crop acreage bases under CRP-1. **All** reconstitutions shall be updated by **August 29, 2008**.

These deadlines have been established to allow 15 calendar days for the County Office to initiate the reconstitution, 15 calendar days for COC action and issuing notification letters, and 30 calendar days for producers to sign up and return signatures and documentation by the **September 30, 2008**, deadline to enroll in DCP.

## NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or print nominee's name exactly as it should be on ballot)	TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE		
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO want to witness the setting of tied votes with another nominee.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO NOT want to witness the setting of tied votes with another nominee.</i>	5. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)	
4A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	4B. DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)	DATE OF ELECTION IS 1st MONDAY OF DECEMBER OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR

## 8. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE

**VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES:** The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

ETHNICITY <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	RACE (Choose as many races as applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White	SEX <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

Complete the form as follows:

ITEM 1 Enter the nominee's name as it is to be shown on the ballot. The nominee must be:

- A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
- B. Willing to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
- C. Willing to serve if elected.

ITEM 2 Enter the nominee's current address.

ITEM 3 The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the setting of tied votes.

ITEM 4 The nominee must sign and date.

ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY SEPTEMBER 3.

NOTE: The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended. The authority for requesting the following information is 7 CFR Part 7. The information will be used to clarify nominees for County FSA Committee.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete the information collection is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.

This form is available electronically:  
FSA-669A  
(05-08-04)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Farm Service Agency

Form Approval - OMB No. 0560-0229

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA)  
COMMITTEE ELECTION

The County FSA Committee election will be held this year on the first Monday of December. Ballots will be mailed to voters approximately 10 calendar days before the election.

This form allows individuals to nominate themselves or any other person as a candidate. If additional forms are needed, this one may be copied or may be obtained at the County FSA Office or obtained electronically at <http://forms.sc.gov.usda.gov>. Each form submitted must be:

- A. Limited to one nominee.
- B. Signed and dated by the nominee in Item 4. Nominee must sign if willing to have name placed on ballot and agrees to serve if elected.
- C. Delivered to the County FSA Office or postmarked no later than September 3.

The County FSA Committee is responsible for reviewing each form to determine the eligibility of nominees. A person who files this form and is found ineligible will be so notified and have an opportunity to file an appeal in accordance with 7 CFR Part 780.

Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. A producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the election is to be held and is eligible to vote.

Federal regulations may prohibit County FSA Committee members from holding certain positions in some farm, commodity, and political organizations if such positions pose a conflict of interest with FSA duties. The positions include functional offices such as president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer; and positions on boards or executive committees. Conflict of interest restrictions also apply to employees, operators, managers, and majority owners of tobacco warehouses. Questions concerning eligibility should be directed to the County FSA Office.

The duties of County FSA Committee members include:

- A. Administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office.
- B. Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs.
- C. Keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions.
- D. Monitoring changes in farm programs.
- E. Participating in county meetings as necessary.
- F. Performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee.

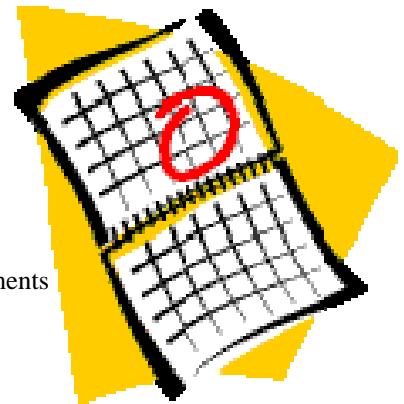
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's Office of Communications, Room 3036, Washington, D.C. 20250-4406 or 202-733-3261 (voice) or 202-733-3262 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE  
Weston County FSA  
1225 Washington Blvd  
Newcastle, WY 82701

Return Service Requested

### ***IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER***

<b>August 1<sup>st</sup> -</b>	Last day for County Committee nominations
<b>August 15<sup>th</sup> –</b>	Crop Reporting Deadline
<b>September 1<sup>st</sup> –</b>	Labor Day Office Closed
<b>September 16<sup>th</sup> –</b>	Last day to purchase NAP or CAT coverage for 2008
<b>September 30<sup>th</sup> –</b>	Last day to sign up for Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payments
<b>December 31<sup>st</sup> -</b>	Last day to sign up for Wool Loan Deficiency Payments



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Special Accommodations will be made for the physically handicapped, vision- or hearing-impaired person upon request. If accommodations are required, please call Peggy Livingston, CED at (307)746-2701.